



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

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MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM/FOA/DRU/CV
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FROM: SAF/AQX
1060 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1060

SUBJECT: New Acquisition Management Career Field Training Policy

The attached policy describes new acquisition manager career requirements (all 63AX; only 1101 coded "A" positions), over and above those required by DoDD 5000.52.

The goal is to enhance the capabilities of our program managers by setting a strong foundation of formal training. The attached concentration of required courses constitutes 6 weeks out of the office during a typical three-to-four-year acquisition tour. Additionally, proper use of the Career Field Education and Training Plan (CFETP) should reinforce concepts taught at school and provide more definition to career development. Request your assistance implementing and disseminating this new policy to the acquisition workforce. My POC is Lt Col Michael Joy, SAF/AQXD, DSN 425-7276 / 703-588-7276.


BLAISE J. DURANTE
Deputy Assistant Secretary
(Acquisition Integration)
Assistant Secretary (Acquisition)

1 Attachment
Acquisition Manager Courses and Career Field Education and Training Plan Implementation

Acquisition Manager Courses and Career Field Education and Training Plan Implementation

Effective immediately, the required experience for award of the qualified 63A3 AFSC is 24 months. Additionally, Defense Acquisition University (DAU) ACQ 201 A/B, Intermediate Systems Acquisition, should be taken at about 18 months followed by PMT 250, Program Management Tools, at around 24 months of acquisition experience. (Officers and civilians in program management-coded positions prior to FY03 are exempt from these accelerated timelines, however they're encouraged to complete in a timely manner.) The number of student seats was increased in FY05 and FY06 to accommodate the surge. The majority of students will be Priority 1 or 2, and thus their attendance is funded via DAU. Register at <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/acqnow/>.

IAW AFI 36-2201, Volume 2, paragraph 1.3.3, the Air Force Fundamentals of Acquisition Management (AFFAM) course is our initial technical course. Attendance is mandatory. All 63AX officers who entered acquisition positions in FY04 and FY05 (prior to April 2005) are scheduled to complete AFFAM by 3 June.

Beginning 6 June, officers will attend AFFAM within 3-4 weeks of accession or after arriving at their first acquisition assignment from operational exchange tours or cross flowing from non-acquisition career fields. (Note: Efforts are underway to eliminate the 3-4 week delay. Additionally, AF/DP, AFPC and AETC are working to couple assignment to both AFFAM and the Air and Space Basic Course (ASBC) before arrival at an officer's first duty station.) Palace Acquire (PAQ) training monitors will schedule 1101 PAQs for AFFAM within 2-3 months of accession. AFFAM TDYs are centrally funded by SAF/AQXD.

The AFFAM curriculum will be lengthened to three weeks and focus on project management skills. ACQ 101 will remain a separate on-line DAU course, but will also be incorporated into AFFAM, eliminating it as a prerequisite. Successful graduation from AFFAM authorizes officers to wear the basic acquisition and financial management occupational badge and fully satisfies the ACQ 101 training requirement for Level I Program Management certification.

On 24 June, a Career Field Education and Training Plan (CFETP) will be instituted, mandatory for 63AX and 1101s graduating from the new AFFAM to enhance career development. The use of the CFETP will be broadened to all 1101s and 63AX acquisition managers in January 2006. The CFETP provides the "program management skills" on the right side of the civilian Acquisition Management force development templates. The key part of the CFETP, is a list of unit follow-on training tasks (on-the-job-training) building upon the principles taught in formal training. Each supervisor's involvement is key for us to get the most benefit from this developmental tool.

In January 2006, for those that entered program management-coded positions in FY03 and thereafter, a new Intermediate Project Management (IPM) short course at AFIT will be introduced—mandatory for 63A3 officers and 1101 civilians at the 30-month point. DAU ACQ 201 and PMT 250 will serve as prerequisites for IPM, a two-week, intensive workshop using essential quantitative project management tools. SAF/AQXD will fund acquisition manager attendance. Other military and civilian acquisition workforce members may attend via unit funding on a space available basis.

In accordance with the above changes, AFMAN 36-2105, Attachment 43, Acquisition Utilization Field (63AX) will be changed accordingly:

3.3. Training. The Air Force Institute of Technology Fundamentals of Acquisition Management (AFFAM) is the mandatory initial course following assignment to a 63A1 position. For award of AFSC 63A3, completion of Defense Acquisition University Program Management Tools (PMT 250) is mandatory.

3.4. Experience. For award of AFSC 63A3, a minimum of 24 months of acquisition experience is mandatory.